

Urban District of Consett

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1948**

JOHN G. WALKER,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, BUILDING AND
SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1948.

Chairman : Coun. E. R. LITTLE.

Vice-Chairman : Coun. J. H. TEMPLE.

Couns. R. Bell, A. Bridgewater, F. H. Curran,
J. Mawson, R. Mohon, M. Macdonald, E. Smith,
G. F. Surtees, T. A. Walton, and W. Walton.

Also Chairman of the Council,
Coun. P. Ferguson, J.P. (Ex-officio).

Vice-Chairman of the Council,
Coun. J. W. Wilkinson (Ex-officio).

Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspectors, Shop
Inspector and Rodent Officer's Department,
Health Department,
Villa Real,
Consett.

Telephone : Consett 148.

Health Department,
Villa Real,
Consett.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CONSETT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Mohon and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of Consett Urban District during 1948. This is my twentyfourth Annual Report and the most momentous change in all these years occurred in 1948. The National Health Service Act came into operation on July 5th and brought many changes into being.

There has not been sufficient time yet to assess the result of these changes, but so far as can be ascertained the initial difficulties are being overcome and smoother running of the vast administrative machinery attained.

On the whole the " Vital Statistics " are satisfactory and are dealt with in the following pages.

Housing is still a problem, but is being tackled vigorously by the Council and the results are coming to fruition.

The system of 100 per cent meat inspection is still in operation with good results.

I again take this opportunity of thanking all my colleagues in the Health and other departments for help willingly given throughout the year.

The interest of the Chairman and all Members of the Council in Public Health work is greatly valued.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,840
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,046
Population (estimated by the Registrar General) 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,820
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at the end of 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,770
Rateable value...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£160,740
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£615
Births during 1948—737.	Birthrate	...	...	...	...	...	18.9
Deaths during 1948—417.	Crude Deathrate	...	...	...	...	...	10.7
Infant Mortality Rate, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	55.6
Tuberculosis Deathrate, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.66
Pulmonary—0.51.	Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	0.15
Zymotic Deathrate, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.07

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT.

The Town of Consett is not an old one as towns go in this Country. Just over 100 years ago only 4 farmsteads stood where the present town is built. These were Carr House Farm, Delves Farm, Fell House Farm and Barr House Farm.

The town as we know it today began with the discovery of ironstone in the district which led to the establishment of the Derwent Iron Company, which later was taken over by the present Consett Iron Company Limited, who developed the present works, numerous collieries and other ancillary industries. Houses were needed for the influx of workmen to these industries and so the town developed.

The earliest workers of ironstone were the Oleys and other German refugees who settled on the banks of the Derwent in the latter part of the 16th Century and worked ironstone for their sword making industry. The pits caused were delfs or delves and so that part of the district got its name. Pack horses carried the ironstone across the fell to Consett Gate and thence to furnaces at Allansford, etc.

The district was constituted a Local Board Division in 1865 and covered 1,005 acres with a population of 7,000. It now covers an area of 9,840 acres and has a population of 38,280. The town stands at a high altitude, being nearly 900 feet above sea level in its highest parts with the land sloping steeply on one side down to the River Derwent which forms its boundary for a considerable distance.

There are two parks for recreational purposes. Consett Park on the side of a hill with magnificent views over the Derwent Valley, and Sherburn Park which was laid out by the Council on what was practically waste land off Medomsley Road, and has proved an amenity of great advantage to the population.

Consett is an industrial town favoured by a surrounding countryside of unsurpassed beauty and within very easy reach.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND INDUSTRIES.

There is a fine social spirit among the inhabitants of the town and many active associations, both voluntary and official operate in the area. It has always been the policy of the Health Department to maintain close touch with these.

To-day, the Women's Voluntary Services, the British Legion and the National Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children are among the former, whilst the chief official bodies are the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the Ministry of Food, and the National Assistance Board, together with officials of Durham County Council, who all render valuable help with their special knowledge, which is much appreciated.

The Consett Iron Company Ltd. and the National Coal Board are the main sources of industry and the prosperity of the town depends on their activities. The ironworks are undergoing extensive reconstruction at the present time which is a good omen of the faith of those responsible in the future.

There are 53 farms registered as dairies in the area and 570 premises liable to inspection under the Shops Acts, the latter employing 1,096 persons.

Strong efforts are being made to attract other industries to the area and a new Trading Estate is being laid out in the Castleside neighbourhood, which is in Lanchester Rural District but will draw most of its workers from the Consett area. There are already established a Glove Maker and a Gown Maker, the fore runners of what we hope will be several new industries.

SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, EFFECTS OF OCCUPATION, ETC.

Scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough were prevalent during 1948. Apart from the accident rate associated with the heavy industries there appears to be no ill effects on the health of the workers by reason of these industries.

There is no statistical evidence to show that food rationing has adversely affected the health of the population, on the contrary infants and young children certainly look and are in better health than at any time. The supply of vitamins and milk foods at the Welfare Centres can claim a large share of the improvement.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.9.
Live Births	Legitimate	704	379	325	
	Illegitimate	33	19	14	
Totals		737	398	339	
		—	—	—	
Still Births	Legitimate	17	11	6	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 22.5.
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Totals		17	11	6	
		—	—	—	
Deaths from all causes		417	230	187	Deathrate per 1,000 of estimated resident pop- ulation 10.7.

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Vital Statistics.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boros. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Consett Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
BIRTHS :—					
Live Births	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1	18.9
Still Births	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39	0.43
DEATHS :—					
All Causes	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6	10.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63	0.66
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.01
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54	0.38
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) :					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37	2.8
Whooping Cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13	2.6
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.05
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	0.12
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17	13.3
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57	0.53
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
DEATHS.					
All causes under 1 year of age	34 (b)	39	32	31	55
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4	2.7
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.				
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) :—					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)	1.3

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes ...	0.73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) In London Puerperal fever alone was 0.61.

The following figures relate to Consett U.D. :—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes	0	

Deathrate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	55.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	58.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (ages all)	53
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	2
Population estimated by the Registrar-General, 1948—38,820	

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-year 1948 is 38,820. This is an increase of 1,780 on last year's figure. The population at the 1931 Census was 38,046, the figures for the last 10 years are given in the following table :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Popula- tion	37,420	37,040	37,040	36,210	35,320	35,050	35,310	36,760	37,040	38,820

BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, ETC.

The birthrate was lower than any since 1943. It was 18.9 per thousand of the population compared with 17.9 for England and Wales and 19.2 for 148 smaller towns having a population of 25,000 to 50,000. The rate for the Administrative County was 20.4.

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Births	705	676	639	671	602	732	694	751	780	737
Rate	18.8	18.2	17.2	18.5	17.0	20.8	19.6	20.4	21.0	18.9

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

There were 398 males and 339 female births, the ratio being 1,000 males to 851 females.

DEATHS, DEATHRATE, ETC.

There were 417 deaths in 1948, being 2 more than the 415 of last year. The rate was 10.7 per thousand population. The rate for England and Wales was 10.8, whilst that for 148 smaller towns was 10.7. The rate for the Administrative County was 10.9. The number of deaths and the rates for the last ten years is given in the following table :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deaths	453	469	409	433	432	434	435	415	415	417
Death-rate	12.1	12.6	11.0	11.9	12.2	12.0	12.3	11.2	11.2	10.7

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are set out in the following table, and it will be noted that 5 per cent of the deaths were due to birth injuries, whilst violent causes accounted for another 4 per cent. Tuberculosis was responsible for 6.2 per cent and cancer for 12.7. The chest diseases—bronchitis and pneumonia were responsible for 9.3 per cent and inter-cranial vascular lesions caused 12 per cent. We get high figures in respect of heart disease which gave a figure of 25.9 per cent, but it must be remembered that this is often given as a terminal cause of death in very elderly people.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Males.	Females.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	230	187
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...				...	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...				...	8	12
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
8. Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...				...	—	—
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cancer of uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...				...	1	3
15. Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	23	15
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
18. Inter-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	24	26
19. Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	57	51
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	...				...	10	4
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	15	9
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	10
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...				...	2	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...				...	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
32. Congenital malformity, birth injuries, etc.	...				...	3	7
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
34. Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
36. All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	36	16

ZYMOTIC DEATHRATE.

There were only 3 deaths from the principal infectious diseases, 1 less than last year. Two of these were due to diarrhoea and 1 due to measles. This gives an exceptionally low zymotic deathrate of 0.07. The rate for the Administrative County was 0.09. The rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Zymotic Deathrate	0.40	0.21	0.11	0.24	0.14	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.07

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Fortunately there were no deaths from puerperal causes during 1948. This gives a Nil maternal mortality rate, which is very satisfactory. The rate for the Administrative County which is the lowest on record was 1.24. The rates in the Consett Urban District for the last 10 years are given in the following table :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	1	2	5	2	0	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Totals</i>	2	2	5	2	1	2	0	0	1	0
Rate per 1,000 total births	2.68	2.87	7.55	2.8	1.5	1.3	0	0	1.2	0

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

There were 41 deaths in infants under 1 year of age, compared with only 28 last year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 55 which is high compared with 34 for England and Wales and 32 for 148 smaller towns. The rate for the Administrative County was 39, which is the lowest on record. The table which follows gives the number of deaths and infant mortality rates for the last 10 years :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Rate per 1,000 births	72	59	66	59	46	43	49	39	36	55

The causes of death in these children and the ages are shown in the following table :—

CAUSE OF DEATH. Infants under 1 year of age.	Under 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	4 Months	5 Months	6 Months	7 Months	8 Months	9 Months	10 Months	11 Months
Toxaemia, Acute Pyelitis ...							1					
Convulsions, Spina Bifida ...			1									
Anaemia, Umbilical Haemorrhage ...	1											
Syncope, Broncho-pneumonia										1		
Premature Birth ...	9											
Cardiac Failure, Acute												
Bronchitis ...			1									
Congenital Debility ...	1											
Broncho-pneumonia ...	1	1	3		1	1		1				
Infantile Convulsions ...	1	1		1								
Acute Enteritis, Convulsions ...		1		1								
Intestinal Obstruction ...		1										
Asphyxia Neonatorum ...	1											
Hydrops foetalis ...	1											
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	1											
Tuberculous Meningitis ...							1					
Intussusception, Broncho-pneumonia...								1				
Pink Disease ...								1				
Marasmus, Prematurity ...		1										
Atelectasis right lung ...	1											
Toxaemia, Broncho-pneumonia								1				
Broncho-pneumonia, Meningitis ...						1						
Syncope ...	1											
Pulmonary haemorrhage ...	1											

STILL BIRTHS.

There were 17 still births during 1948 compared with 20 last year, all these were legitimate births. This gives a rate of 0.43 per thousand population, which is the same as that for 148 comparable towns. The rate for England and Wales was 0.42 per thousand of the population. The following table gives the rates for the last 10 years, both per thousand population and per thousand births :—

Year	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Total Number	36	21	23	36	34	31	27	34	20	17
Rate per 1,000 population	0.96	0.56	0.62	0.99	0.96	0.88	0.76	0.92	0.54	0.43
Rate per 1,000 total births	48.5	30.1	34.7	50.9	53.4	40.6	37.4	43.3	25.6	22.5

CANCER MORTALITY.

There were 53 deaths from Cancer during 1948, which is 7 more than last year and forms 12.7 of the total deaths. There were 26 males and 27 females.

SITE OF DISEASE ACCORDING TO SEX.

MALE.					FEMALE.				
Colon	...	...	...	3	Colon	...	...	...	4
Rectum	...	...	...	6	Rectum	...	...	...	3
Stomach	...	...	...	3	Stomach	...	...	...	3
Pancreas	...	...	...	2	Breast	...	...	...	6
Bronchus	...	...	...	3	Uterus	...	...	...	4
Femur	...	...	...	1	Gall Bladder	...	...	...	2
Jaw ...	...	...	...	1	Liver & Colon	...	...	...	1
Ear ...	...	...	...	1	Liver	...	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	...	4	Cerebral Malignant Tumour	...	...	...	1
Lip ...	...	...	...	1	Larynx	...	...	...	1
Brain	...	...	...	1	Cervix	...	...	...	1
Total ...					Total				
26					27				

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(a) Medical Officer of Health :—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices and duties : Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the Joint Areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935.

(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector, F. STRINGFELLOW.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

The duties of this appointment which is whole-time are as set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspectors :—

H. WALTON, Cert. S.I.B. W. TELFORD, Cert. S.I.B.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

These appointments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health and 50% of the salaries are payable from County Funds.

(d) Shops Inspector :—

R. P. JOPE.

(e) Clerical Staff :—

Chief Clerk : MISS P. E. BARROW.

Clerk : W. A. ROBERTS.

Junior Clerk : MISS M. MARTIN.

(f) Rodent Officer :—

W. L. ARMSTRONG.

(g) Home Visitor (Scabies, etc.) :—

MISS E. A. PICKERING.

Medical Officers in connection with Schools, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis, Food and Drugs Inspectors, Health Visitors, etc., carry out various Public Health Activities in the district. These officers are appointed and controlled by the County Council. (Some changes occurred after July 5th, 1948).

(1) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A scheme is in operation where specimens of pathological material can be examined for Public Health Officers or Medical Practitioners at the Central Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 5, telephone No. Kenton 69319. Your Medical Officer of Health is available to assist in such matters with advice as to methods of collection, dispatch, etc. Water samples are sent to the above laboratory for bacteriological examination and to the County Public Analyst, Darlington, in other cases.

(2) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Since July 5th, 1948, the local health authority has provided a 24 hour ambulance service from local headquarters at Villa Real, Consett, telephone No. Consett 411. This service after initial troubles has now got down to smooth working and appears to meet the needs of the district adequately.

SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

Assistance with enquiries regarding these services will be furnished at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Villa Real, Consett, on request.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Wetheral House, Medomsley Road, Consett.

Sessions for children are held all day Wednesday once a fortnight, Tuesday morning once a fortnight. Ante-natal clinics every Monday all day and Wednesday afternoon once a fortnight. Post-natal and birth control Wednesday morning once a fortnight. Ultra Violet Ray clinics Tuesday and Thursday afternoon weekly.

CONVALESCENT HOME.

The E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge.
Telephone, Shotley Bridge 27.

Admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under five years of age.

COUNTY MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

A domiciliary midwifery service is provided. The names and addresses of the mid-wives available can be obtained from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Health Visitors or from the County Medical Officer.

HOME HELPS.

The services of ' Home Help ' are provided in necessitous cases during the laying-in period of the mother. Particulars can be obtained from Health Visitors, Welfare Centres or the County Medical Officer.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE AND AFTER CARE COMMITTEE.

The Committee is composed of voluntary workers. The work is varied and includes the provision in necessitous cases of beds, bedding, clothing and extra nourishment. Patients are assisted as far as possible to obtain better housing accommodation, in some cases by means of grant for rent assistance. The Secretary, Tuberculosis Care and After Care Committee, Mr. J. Curry, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham, will deal with enquiries.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The County Scheme includes education of blind children, training of approved workers, treatment for prevention of blindness, etc. Information regarding the services can be obtained from the County Medical Officer or from Miss K. A. J. Robson, 8, St. Andrews Gardens, Blackhill.

CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Parents or relatives in charge of children or young adults who are mentally retarded or undeveloped are invited to communicate with the County Medical Officer or the District Health Visitors.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Scheme provides for the systematic medical inspection of school children and for medical treatment of defects discovered. School Clinic, Wetheral House, Medomsley Road, Consett. Sessions Tuesdays and Fridays.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Sessions are held Wednesday afternoons weekly at the Clinic, Wetheral House, Medomsley Road, Consett, and once a month at 4 p.m. Wednesdays at Infants' School, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill.

HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT.

These are now under the control of the North West Durham Hospital Management Committee—Secretary: Mr. A. Lawther, Shotley Bridge Hospital, Shotley Bridge. Enquiries should be made of your own doctor or from the Bed Bureau, Shotley Bridge Hospital, telephone Shotley Bridge 118. The Hospitals under this group are :—

Shotley Bridge Hospital. Infectious Disease Hospital, Lanchester. Lee Hill Hospital, Lanchester. Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill and South Moor Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

21 samples of water were taken and submitted to bacteriological analysis with the following results :—

Source of Supply and date.		PLATE COUNT.		Presumptive Coliform Count.
		At 37°C 2 days incubation. Colonies per ml.	At 20°-22°C 3 days incubation. Colonies per ml.	
3/4/48	Public Water Supply	Less than 1	20	0 per 100 ml.
3/4/48	Public Water Supply	Less than 1	Less than 10	0 per 100 ml.
14/4/48	Public Water Supply	Less than 1	15	0 per 100 ml.
	Bacteriologically the	above are satisfactory	samples	of water.
<i>Samples taken from supplies other than public.</i>				
26/3/48	Dene Cott., Iveston	3	Less than 10	0 per ml.
"	Hole House Farm ...	1	10	0 per ml.
3/4/48	Hearts of Oak Farm	Less than 1	Less than 10	0 per ml.
"	Lane Heads ...	144	Over 30,000	0 per ml.
"	Forge Cottages ...	Less than 1	Less than 10	1 per ml.
"	Pont Burn Cottage ...	Less than 1	95	0 per ml.
"	Hamsterley Lodge ...	Less than 1	90	0 per ml.
"	Westwood Farm			
"	House ...	86	Less than 10	0 per ml.
17/4/48	Southfield Farm ...	Less than 1	25	0 per ml.
"	Caravan, Pont Road	Less than 1	20	0 per ml.
	Bacteriologically the above may be regarded as			satisfactory.
26/3/48	Allensford Hall ...	186	470	1800 + per ml.
"	Iveston Cottage ...	2	10	250 + per ml.
29/3/48	Rose Cott. Allensford	21	10	3 Faecal type "
"	Stockerley Grove ...	3	5	5 Faecal type "
17/4/48	Salem Cottage ...	9	60	17 ml.
30/9/48	Westwood Farm Hse.	200	420	350 ml.
4/11/48	do.	45	190	110 ml.
17/12/48	do.	300	30,000	600 ml.

Bacteriologically the above 8 samples are to be regarded as unsatisfactory or suspicious.

The public water supply has been satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. No samples were taken with reference to plumbosolvency and no action was necessary with respect of any form of contamination. In the Annual Report for 1947, it was noted that 21 houses in the area had no public supply, and efforts have been made to reduce this number wherever possible and at reasonable cost with the following results :—

Pont Burn Cottage, Hamsterley Mill	1	Mains water connected.
Iveston Cottage, Boggle Hole	...	1 do.
7, Backstone Street, Blackhill	...	1 do.
Forge Cottages, Hamsterley	...	2 do.

Two further houses, Hamsterley Mill Farm and New Lodge were formerly provided with a private supply which was intermittent in character and the Water Board has connected the public supply to the existing private supply tank. There remain 14 houses which depend on springs and runners, etc., for their water supply :—

Stockerley Grove Cottage, Boggle Hole	...	...	1
Dene Cottage, Iveston	...	...	1
Hole House Farm, Allensford...	...	...	1
Cottages near Allensford boundary...	...	...	4
Salem Cottage, Knitsley	...	...	1
Hearts of Oak Farm, Blackhill	...	...	1
Poss Stick Mill, Ebchester	...	...	3
Cottage at Westwood Sewage Works	...	...	1
Southfield Farm, Medomsley	...	...	1

This is a remarkably satisfactory position as much of your Council's area is of a rural nature. Most of the above mentioned houses are unfortunately situated at considerable distances from the public water mains, but wherever necessary, efforts are being made to improve the existing supply. There are now no stand pipes in the area and out of a total of 10,770 houses 10,756 have service pipes connected from the mains supply, providing public water for a population of 38,764 of the total population of 38,820.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The four sewage disposal works at Elbchester, Pont, Crookhall and Knitsley, have received regular attention and all have worked satisfactorily. Tanks at the main works (Elbchester) have been cleansed of heavy deposits of ballast and grit, and painting at these works has greatly improved the general appearance.

Considerable sludge has been removed by Farmers and Market Gardeners and experiments with the burning of sludge are still proceeding. The metal sewer carried over the River Derwent at Shotley Bridge has been cleansed and treated with bitumastic paint. Defective sewer at Grange Farm, Medomsley, is still under observation and as soon as settlement is completed this sewer will be completely relaid.

The temporary tanks taking sewage from newly erected houses at Briar Dale continued to be a source of anxiety and an enquiry was held during the year with regard to the provision of proper and sufficient means of sewage treatment for this area. The Ministry of Health has agreed to a scheme involving the construction of a small pumping station at the east end of the Estate from which the sewage will be pumped to existing sewers at Pixley Dell and it is hoped to have the work put in hand at an early date.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Considerable progress was made with the important work of converting the very unsatisfactory Ash Closets and Privies to Water Closets and altogether 176 such conversions were made. The work is being pushed on and it is hoped to further considerably reduce these obsolete and insanitary arrangements in the near future. When the several areas were amalgamated in 1937 to form the present urban area the figures available were taken to give the position regarding existing closet accommodation of the conservancy type. Quite recently a very detailed survey has been made and the amended totals are given below :—

Water Closets	...	...	10,986
Ash Closets	...	...	543
Ashpit Privies	...	...	82

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A new 10 cubic yard refuse vehicle has been received and is proving very useful in the cleansing of Ash Bins. The gradual building up of transport plus the fact that a repair department is in operation is important for the efficient performance of this work. Complaints were again received from districts in which cleansing work was let by contract. At present five small areas are let to contractors but it is hoped to reduce this number to two in the very near future so that the whole area will be cleansed direct with the exception of Crookhall and the Delves.

Efforts are being made to reduce the bulk weight of refuse to be removed by the provision of Ash Bins in place of Ashpits and by Water Closet Conversions. Refuse is disposed of by tipping and levelling in various parts of the district and special attention is given to the question of rats infestation.

The existing method of emptying street gullies by hand labour and slop cart will soon be abolished when the new gulley emptying vehicle is received.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Particulars of work done under the Public Health and Housing Acts are set out below :—

		Informal Notices.	Formal Notices by order of Local Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Foul Conditions	10	1	9	
Structural defects	631	8	466	
Overcrowding	28	—	18	
Cowsheds	23	—	23	
Bake-houses	7	—	7	
Slaughter Houses	8	—	8	
Ashpits and Privies	302	—	300	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	46	—	46	
Water Closets	63	4	59	
Yard Paving	1	—	1	
Drainage Faults	94	—	92	
Water Supply	8	—	6	
Animals improperly kept	3	—	3	
Other Nuisances	35	—	35	
Totals ...	1,259	13	1,073	

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

143 houses were visited following notification of Infectious Disease and instructions given in the use of disinfectants which are provided free. In two cases infected bedding was destroyed by burning. Six classrooms at one school were disinfected at the request of the Education Authority.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

109 inspections were made of various factories in the district and in 17 cases improvements were made, chiefly with regard to closet accommodation. Preparation work to land near the Moor-side area is in hand and the provision of a trading estate here should prove extremely useful.

Premises.	No. on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	49	36	6	Nil.
Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies...	87	73	15	Nil.
Total ...	136	109	21	Nil.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		2	
Inadequate Ventilation	1				
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	5	3		1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	9		2	
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1		1	
Other Offenees	3	2		1	
Total ...	21	17	Nil.	7	Nil.

4 Outworkers are engaged in the altering and repair of wearing apparel.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

374 shops inspections were made, chiefly with reference to Section 10 of the above Act, and the following defects were remedied :—

Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	5
Washing facilities provided	...	...	2
Defective W.C.'s renewed or repaired	...	...	3
Drainage Faults	...	...	2
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	2
General structural repairs	...	...	1

SHOPS ACT, 1912—1936.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

The closing hour of practically all shops in the area continues to be between 5-30 p.m. and 6.0 p.m. throughout the year. Four large establishments have elected to substitute Saturday for Wednesday half-day closing and a number of Ladies Hairdressers also close on a Saturday.

Particulars relating to number of Assistants employed, hours worked by Young Persons, Assistants half-holiday, meal facilities, and seating accommodation for females was ascertained from the 563 traders. The statutory notices were checked and corrected.

The appended table shows that 570 premises are liable for inspection. Of the 570 premises, 1,096 Assistants are employed in 337 of them. 787 assistants are over the age of 18 years, 201 under 18 years of age and 108 under 16 years of age. The average hours worked by Young Persons under 18 years of age are $43\frac{1}{2}$ per week. Included in the premises liable for inspection are 30 private houses from which retail trade is carried on.

In order to ensure that the provision of the Acts were being carried out return visits were made on 313 occasions. Several of these visits were in the evenings and Sundays in addition to the ones made during ordinary shop hours.

Two persons were informed that if any further breaches of selling goods after closing hours were observed proceedings would be instituted. Six other traders were cautioned for similar offences. One instance of a trader selling goods prohibited by the 1912 Act was observed and the person concerned was cautioned. Two employers were interviewed and cautioned for allowing assistants to work after the statutory time on the day of their weekly half holiday. One case of a person working without a weekly half-holiday was investigated and the employer concerned gave an undertaking that the offence would not occur again. Two employers complied with the request to provide seating for their female assistants. Eight cases of shops remaining open after the statutory closing hours were dealt with and numerous cases of incorrect forms and notices were attended to.

There are 41 shops open on a Sunday until 1.0 p.m. and ten remain open all day. Attention is continually given to ascertain that the provisions of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, are complied with. The difficulties under this Act as to interpretation which lead to complications continue. The Sunday registers of persons employed on Sundays are frequently checked and two cases of non-compliance were dealt with. Six traders were cautioned for selling articles other than allowed by the Act. It is of interest that persons retail not only Ice Cream and Fruit from vehicles on a Sunday but also Mineral Waters, Books and Periodicals.

The undermentioned orders are in operation in the area :—

1. The Consett Butchers and Pork Butchers Half-Holiday Closing Order.
2. The Consett Weekly Half-Holiday Order in respect of :—
Boot and Shoe Dealers, Clothiers, Drapers, Milliners, Hosiers, Mereers, Furniture Dealers, Glass, China and Hardware Dealers, Ironmongers, Grocers and Provision Dealers, Jewellers, Pawnbrokers, Piano and Wireless Dealers, Cycle Dealers, Stationers, Faney Goods Dealers, Wall-paper and Paint Dealers, Lending Libraries and Seed and Corn Merehants.
3. The Shotley Bridge Weekly Half-Holiday Suspension Order.
4. The Shotley Bridge (Week-day) Closing Order.
5. The Shotley Bridge (Sunday Trading Restriction Act, 1936) Closing Order, No. 2.
6. Extension of Closing Hours for Tobaceonists.

The Authority exercised its powers under Section 7 (2) of the Shops Act, 1928, and suspended Closing Hours on seven days in the year.

The same facility was granted to Hairdressers as on previous years in allowing them to remain open until 6.30 p.m. on days other than the late day during the period of Winter Closing Hours. The six Cinemas in the area continue to operate under the Shops Acts as permitted under Section 8 of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938. These Cinemas are now opening on a Sunday and the provisions regarding persons employed on that day as stated in the Sunday Entertainment Act, 1936, have been checked and found in order.

The large majority of traders continue to observe and comply with the various provisions of the Acts and Closing Orders.

SHOPS ACTS.—Table showing the number of persons employed in the Trades scheduled.

No. of premises liable to inspection.	Trade.	No. of premises where assistants are employed.	Males.			Females.			No. of persons employed.
			Over 18	Under 18	Under 16	Over 18	Under 18	Under 16	
3	Auctioneers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	Boot and Shoe Dealers	8	5	—	—	7	5	2	19
34	Butchers and Pork Butchers	33	49	7	11	9	3	—	79
75	Bakers, Caterers and Confectioners	35	7	—	1	69	19	7	103
10	Chemists and Photographers... ..	6	6	1	—	13	7	4	31
46	Clothiers, Drapers and Milliners	37	28	6	—	85	23	11	153
13	Coal Dealers	13	18	4	4	—	—	—	26
12	Fish Dealers	2	1	—	—	5	—	—	6
20	Fried Fish Dealers	16	2	—	—	25	9	3	39
44	Fruiters and Florists	16	22	1	—	20	10	1	54
5	Furniture Dealers	4	3	—	1	5	—	—	9
63	Grocers and Provision Dealers	54	122	24	16	107	35	14	318
31	General Dealers	5	3	—	—	28	15	9	55
13	Glass, China, Hardware Dealers, Ironmongers	7	9	2	1	8	2	6	28
37	Hairdressers	14	3	3	2	3	5	4	20
3	Hosiery and Mercery	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
6	Jewellers, Pawnbrokers	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	3
67	Licensed Victuallers	46	46	—	—	29	1	—	76
15	Motor Engineers, Cycle and Wireless Dealers	9	4	1	1	6	—	—	12
19	Newsagents, Stationers, Fancy Goods Dealers	12	6	—	3	15	2	4	30
3	Tobacconists	2	—	—	—	4	1	3	8
4	Wallpaper and Paint Dealers	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
24	Miscellaneous Trades	6	—	—	—	2	1	—	13
6	Cinemas	6	5	—	—	3	5	—	9
7	Shops not occupied	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
570		337	340	55	40	447	146	68	1,096

HOUSING.

MINERS' HOSTEL, LEADGATE.

Alterations were carried out to various existing buildings with a view to the provisions of more room, and at present 50 separate families are in occupation. In April an outbreak of Dysentery occurred which affected some 17 occupants. Complaints were made as to the condition of the drinking water which was supplied to an overhead tank and thence to the various huts. Work was put in hand at once and the water supply carried direct from the Board's mains. Urinals formerly used in the Hostel were bricked up to prevent children gaining access to them when playing inside the buildings. The closet accommodation, passages, baths, drainage, etc., were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. The cleansing of these places, which are in common use, is one of the great difficulties encountered in trying to keep the buildings thoroughly clean.

COUNCIL HOUSING SCHEMES.

Further progress was made in this very important work and below is set out brief details of the houses actually erected :—

Hamsterley Colliery.

Aged Persons Houses	21
Traditional	1
		—	22

Delves.

Traditional	4
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Leadgate—Pont Head.

Traditional	34
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Blackhill (Richard Murray Estate).

B.I.S.F. Houses	110
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Blackhill (Cutlers' Hall).

B.I.S.F. Houses	8
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Moorside Estate.

B.I.S.F. Houses	68
Traditional	8
		—		76

Medomsley.

Aged Persons Houses	12
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Woodlands Road Site.

Traditional (direct labour)	2
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Total erected and let	268
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Further building is in hand, mainly at the Moorside and Richard Murray Hospital Estates, and a considerable number of houses are nearing completion.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

29 houses were erected by contractors mainly for use by owner occupiers :—

Hamsterley Mill Estate	...	...	...	16
East Law Estate	...	...	...	5
Springhouse Lane	...	...	...	5
Blackhill	...	...	...	2
Leadgate	...	...	...	1
Total				29

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses in respect of which the owners have given undertakings not to use the houses for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses actually demolished	...	...	...	...	4
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	4

There are some 450 houses in the area which by reason of bad arrangement, unmade streets and general dilapidation may be regarded as obsolete. At the present time this is probably the most difficult type of house with which your Council has to deal. It is unreasonable to expect costly improvements, yet at the same time occupiers will have to put up with unsatisfactory conditions until slum clearance schemes can once again provide the necessary outlet for re-housing.

In the meantime your Council are negotiating with some owners that they voluntarily agree once an obviously unfit house is vacated it shall remain closed. Progress may be slow but in the circumstances I think the Council's action is to be commended.

OVERCROWDING.

Cases known of legal overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, are listed and there remain 94 families on record. During the year the following cases have been dealt with :—

New cases added to list—families grown to overcrowding	10
Cases abated—by removal to Council houses	15
Cases abated—by removal to private houses	3
Total families on overcrowding list	94

MILK SUPPLY.

114 inspections were made of Cowsheds and Dairies. Improvements were carried out at West Law Farm, Berry Edge Farm and Allendale Farm, all with a view to the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. A considerable change took place during the year due to the operations of the Milk Marketing Board's new premises at Langley Bridge. The Board now collect bulk supplies from many of our producers and return the milk bottled as "Pasteurised" milk, and are further extending their supplies to cover Tuberculin Tested—Pasteurised Milk. This arrangement appears to be working well and is a considerable improvement on previous methods.

Two more of our farm occupiers received licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk during the year and quite clearly the welcome supply of designated milks is rapidly increasing. Below is set out a complete list of licences and registrations in force in your Council's area at the end of the year :—

No. of Cowkeepers	53
No. of Farms registered as Dairies	53
Other registered Dairies	20
Wholesale Producers only	28
Retail Purveyors in the area	50
Retail Purveyors from outside areas	10
Accredited Producers	18
Tuberculin Tested Producers	7
Pasteurised—Dealers Licences	27
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licences	4
Tuberculin Tested—Dealers Licences	2
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licences	4
Accredited Supplementary Licences	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter of animals is now confined to one Slaughter House which at busy periods is in use from Sunday to Sunday. The great drawback is lack of space.

The only ante-mortem inspection of animals is carried out when they are standing in the pens awaiting slaughter. A van conveys bulk supplies each week to the Lanchester Rural District for distribution there. A local contractor provides vans for distribution in the Consett area. The meat is not hung in the wagons but movable wood floors are provided and the vehicles generally are extremely well kept, but unless specially adapted vans are provided this work will always be open to some criticism. Sale of meat from stalls in the market has now practically ceased and vehicles delivering from house to house have improved greatly in recent years as the modern motor van becomes more extensively used.

One meat shop was found to be thoroughly unsatisfactory and action is being taken to secure improved premises and a higher standard of cleanliness. During the year under review 10,257 animals were slaughtered, details being as set out below :—

Bulls	...	...	...	...	39
Bullocks	...	...	...	...	412
Cows	...	...	...	...	546
Heifers	...	...	...	...	1,273
Calves	...	...	...	...	868
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	...	7,038
Pigs	...	...	...	...	81
Total					10,257

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	1,724	546	868	7,038	81
Number Inspected	1,724	546	868	7,038	81
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. Whole Carcases Condemned	12	27	10	19	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	667	181	—	83	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tubercul- osis	39.3	38	1.15	1.44	7.4
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole Carcases Condemned	22	31	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	204	199	2	—	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	13.1	42.1	0.34	—	4.9

Apart from animals graded at the Mart 374 "Casualties" were brought into the Slaughter House from Farms, etc. These include animals obviously suffering from disease, unwanted calves, unthrifty animals, etc., and the following table gives particulars of the results of examination of these animals :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	91	100	52	108	23
Number Inspected	91	100	52	108	23
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole Carcases Condemned...	8	23	2	11	5
Percentage of the Number inspected completely con- demned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	8.7	23	3.84	10.1	21.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole Carcases Condemned...	11	21	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected completely con- demned for Tuberculosis ...	12	21	—	—	—

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Total Carcasses, etc., found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1948.

	CARCASSES, ETC.				Ox Lungs.	Ox Hearts.	Ox Livers.	HEADS.			PLUCKS.			Cows Udders.	Ox Stomachs & Intestines.
	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.				Ox.	Pigs.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.		
Tuberculosis ...	53 +, 475 lbs. + 6 Fore Qrs.	1			390	21	3	175	3	2		1	1		27
Johnes Disease ...															
Pyæmia ...			1												
Septic Pneumonia ...		1	4												3
Septic Pericarditis ...	3														
Pleurisy and Peritonitis ...	5	1					776								
Cirrhosis ...															
Mastitis ...															
Swine Erysipelas ...															
Septic Conditions ...	9 + 81 lbs. + 2 Hind Qrs.	6	3 + 90 lbs.	1 3 + 107 lbs.										63	
C. Haemangiona ...	19		5				4								1
Oedema and Emaciation...															
Parasites ...															
Dead, Moribund, Imperfect															
Bleeding ...	1		4	1							83	1			
Immaturity ...		2													
Decomposition ...	727 lbs.														
Traumatism ...	1,190 lbs. + 2 Hind Qrs.	9 lbs.	79 lbs.	47 lbs.											
Extensive Bruising ...	1		1												
Septic Metritis ...	1														
Totals ...	92 + 2,473 lbs. + 6 Fore Qrs. + 4 Hind Qrs.	11 + 9 lbs.	19 + 169 lbs.	5 + 154 lbs.	390	21	784	175	3	2	83	2	1	63	31

IMPORTED MEAT.

Imported foods were distributed to the trade in addition to home killed meat as follows :—

Hind Quarters Beef	...	...	2,701
Fore Quarters Beef	...	...	3,793
Sheep	...	...	2,624
Lambs	...	...	19,192
Pork Sides	...	...	283
6 lb. tins Corned Beef	...	...	26,352
12 oz. tins Corned Beef	...	...	69,216

Bone taint and other unsound conditions accounted for condemnation as set out below :—

Frozen Beef	...	...	1,264 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	702 lbs.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

Various articles of food indicated below were examined at retail shops, warehouses, etc., and were found to be unsound, unwholesome or so damaged as to be unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned Goods.

349 tins	Milk.
226 „	Vegetables.
222 „	Fruit.
174 „	Fish.
106 „	Meat.
88 „	Tomatoes.
84 „	Soup.
27 „	Marmalade.
19 „	Jam.
16 „	Grape Fruit Juice.
12 „	Syrup.
9 „	Dried Eggs.
6 „	Potatoes.
6 „	Mincemeat.
5 „	M. & V.
4 „	Tomato Juice.
3 „	Bacon.

Various Foodstuffs.

190 lbs.	Dried Apricots.
129 „	Barley.
126 „	Cod.
99 „	Flour.
88 „	Prunes.
65 „	Figs.
56 „	Currants.
56 „	Dried Peas.
35 „	Dried Peaches.
27 „	Oatmeal.
20 „	Cheese.
15 „	Dates.
5 „	Orange Drop Sweets.
4 „	Potato Powder.
1 lb.	Butter Beans.
54 Bars.	Chocolate.
3 „	Toffee.

3 tins Chicken.	31 Pkts. Semolina.
2 „ Sweet Puddings.	18 „ Cocoa.
1 tin Rabbit.	12 „ Cereal Foods.
1 „ Apple Puree.	6 „ Oatmeal Biscuits.
	3 „ P.O.M.
<i>Bottled Goods.</i>	3 „ Junket Powder.
78 Jars Pickles.	
43 „ Marmite.	
36 „ Jam.	
3 „ Fish paste.	
2 Bottles Coffee Essence.	

CIRCULAR 2886.

Unsound foodstuffs returned to the Ministry of Food through trade channels :—

26 lbs. Bacon.
15 lbs. Butter.
15 lbs. Ham.
6 lbs. Cheese.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERING.

105 pigs slaughtered under licence for private use were examined in various parts of the district.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Premises on which foodstuffs are prepared have been regularly visited and altogether 233 inspections were made.

There are 5 premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and in one case the occupier has provided a new building. In another case improved washing facilities and closet accommodation were provided. Two producers submitted plans for improved premises which were approved by your Council, but up to the present the work has not been carried out. All 5 manufacturers are being pressed to obtain all the necessary equipment as required by the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1948.

Excellent improvements were made to 3 bakeries, in one case by removal to a much more satisfactory building.

Premises used by butchers for the preparation of food including meat products have generally been well kept. During the year one butcher improved his accommodation for the sale, storage and preparation of meat to a high hygienic level, and it seems clear that when building materials and labour for this type of work are more freely available others will bring their premises up to a high standard.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year under review a total of 980 visits were made including Council properties, business premises and private dwellings. The inspection and supervision of all Council properties was maintained, particular attention being given to Refuse Tips. An infestation revealed at Fell Farm Refuse Tip has been treated by pre-baiting and poisoning and similar treatment was carried out on land adjoining the building site at Moorside. The Maintenance Treatment of Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works at six monthly intervals and the annual test baiting of manholes as required by the Ministry was completed. The first treatment of Sewers was carried out in March when 201 manholes were baited and infestation by rats was observed in 78 cases. A total of 198 manholes baited in the succeeding treatment in September revealed infestation in 80 cases. The test baiting of 135 manholes representing 10% of untreated manholes was carried out in conjunction with the latter campaign and infestation was noted in 11 instances. The treatment of Sewage Disposal Works was undertaken simultaneously with that of Sewers and the marked improvement observed last year was maintained with the exception of Knitsley Works where a minor re-infestation was revealed. An opportunity has been taken to inspect manholes on new housing sites which link up with existing sewer systems with a view to future test baiting.

Routine inspections and supervision of business premises especially Food Shops and premises used for the preparation of food were maintained. Treatment of infestations revealed was carried out in 16 instances and in several cases rat proofing work was undertaken by the owners or occupiers concerned with satisfactory results. A number of business firms in the district continue to use the service of private pest control undertakings.

Several complaints of minor infestation of dwelling houses have received attention, and in some cases it was found necessary to carry out treatment in conjunction with adjoining business premises. A total of 31 dwelling houses were treated and rat proofing recommended where necessary. The treatment of private dwellings is now carried out as a free service in accordance with the provisions of Circular N.S. No. 19 except in cases of extreme neglect.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have continued to administer the Rodent Control schemes during the year and some important changes have been effected. The grant-aid offered to Local Authorities of 30% of cost of treatment of Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works and 60% on Private Dwellings provided under Circulars N.S. Nos. 11 and 12 respectively expired on 31st March, 1948. The new Circular N.S. No. 19 which came into effect on 1st April, 1948, and under which the scheme now operates provides for a 50% grant towards the total cost of all aspects of the work including Council properties, Refuse Tips, etc., which hitherto have not ranked for grant.

Close relations have been maintained with Northern Division representatives of the Ministry who pay periodical visits in a supervisory capacity.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a total of 774 notifications of infectious diseases during 1948, which was considerably more than 514 of 1947. These did not include tuberculosis. The increase is due to increased notifications of scarlet fever 111, measles 522 and whooping cough 104. It will be observed that the total number of notifications is well below the 1940 figure which was 1,586. The following table shows the number of cases notified and the number admitted to an isolation hospital or already in an institution and covers the period of the last ten years :—

SCARLET FEVER.

An increased number of cases was notified during the year, a total of 111 compared with 64 in the previous year. The cases were generally of a mild type and free from complications. Sixty-nine were admitted to hospital and the remainder treated at home without any untoward results.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 7 cases notified as diphtheria during the year under review and six of these were sent to hospital. Only 2 cases were confirmed as actual diphtheria and 1 of these was a "Carrier" in a child just under 15 years who had been previously immunised and the other in an adult. The table below shows the remarkable fall in diphtheria notifications and amply justifies the Council's campaign against this menace to child life which has produced such wonderful results. Of the 33 fatal cases since 1938, 32 were definitely non-immunised and 1 was doubtful. It will be noted there has not been a single death from diphtheria during the last 5 years. The figures for the last 22 years are shown :—

YEAR.	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cases Notified ...	95	129	140	141	49	60	183	234	150	164	180	154
Deaths ...	9	11	6	5	2	2	11	16	15	16	15	14

YEAR.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	
Cases Notified ...	73	10	18	18	29	33	13	14	1	2	
Deaths ...	11	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The National Health Service Act transferred the responsibility for this from the Urban District Council to the Local Health Authority. The work can now be undertaken by private practitioners as well as by Public Health Officers. We have no record of the work done by private practitioners and the following figures do not include such work. So far as we can ascertain the adjusted figures at the end of 1948 were :—

Children under 5 yrs. of age who had received two doses of A.P.T.—1,618.

This is 49.2 per cent of this age group.

Children over 5 yrs. and under 15 who had received two doses of A.P.T.—4,827 which forms 80 per cent of this group.

Approximately 706 children received a reinforcing dose during 1948 in addition to the foregoing figures.

MEASLES.

This disease was again epidemic during 1948 and 522 cases were notified compared with 385 last year. Fortunately there were no deaths. Nine cases were admitted to the isolation hospital, usually because of complications. The disease appears to have been a milder type than that experienced last year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 104 cases notified in 1948 compared with only 29 in the previous year. There was 1 death and 1 case was admitted to hospital.

DYSENTERY.

There were 5 cases notified as the result of an outbreak in the Miners' Hostel, Leadgate. Vigorous steps were taken to protect the drinking water which was found to be the source of trouble. This is dealt with under housing. There were fortunately no fatal results.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was again an increase in the number of new notifications of tuberculosis during 1948, which was 72 compared with 59 for 1947. The position is shown in the following table which gives the notifications etc., for the last 10 years. The state of the tuberculosis register at the beginning of 1938 was 99 pulmonary and 85 non-pulmonary cases, and at the end of 1948 the corresponding figures were 233 and 164. The demand for houses has slowed up to some extent the rehousing of tubercular families, which has received attention in your district for many years. Only six families were rehoused during 1948 :—

Year.	Total Noti- fica- tions.	Pulmonary.	Non- Pulmonary.	Deaths.	Recovered.	Removed from Area.
1939	49	35	14	23	—	4
1940	39	25	14	13	10	6
1941	39	26	13	18	10	7
1942	39	17	22	12	4	7
1943	43	31	12	24	3	8
1944	77	45	32	18	5	4
1945	54	34	20	28	19	4
1946	47	33	14	17	9	3
1947	59	43	16	20	11	5
1948	72	53	19	22	1	10
Totals	518	342	176	195	72	58

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHRATE.

This was higher in 1948—0.66 than in 1947—0.50. Strong efforts have been made to obtain the services of the Mass Radiography Unit in the Consett area, but the absence of suitable electric supplies and the fact that the Unit has not yet been provided with its own generator have held this up. It is hoped that arrangements will be made soon for this facility in the Consett Urban District. The County death rate for pulmonary tuberculosis was 0.49, the lowest recorded compared with Consett's rate of 0.51. The rate for non-pulmonary tuberculosis for the County was 0.08 compared with Consett 0.15. The rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table :—

Year	...	...	...	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.66	0.43	0.51	0.58	0.67	0.79	0.48	0.68	0.50	0.66
Deathrate													
Pulmonary	...	...	...	0.61	0.30	0.41	0.34	0.61	0.51	0.39	0.46	0.40	0.51
Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	0.05	0.13	0.10	0.24	0.06	0.28	0.09	0.22	0.10	0.15

SCABIES AND INFESTATION.

There was again a drop in the number of cases of scabies coming to our notice during the year. There were 51 cases and 59 contacts treated. The families affected were 21 and 3 instances of reinfestation were found. Twelve cases were treated for other skin conditions and full co-operation of the families concerned was obtained. The following table shows the success in treating this disease since 1942, which is entirely due to the Council's vigorous policy in dealing with this social problem :—

Year.	Cases Scabies.	Known Contacts.	Reinfesta- tions.	Families Affected.
1942	444	387		
1943	423	462	49	167
1944	475	400	47	169
1945	285	248	27	92
1946	248	194	18	77
1947	74	49	16	25
1948	51	59	3	21

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Journal "Better Health" was circulated monthly to various associations, schools, etc., in the district and suitable leaflets on scabies, diphtheria immunisation, venereal diseases, etc., were used as opportunity occurred. Your Medical Officer of Health addressed various meetings on a variety of Public Health subjects.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, 1948.

Mr. Hutton, Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following information :—

Month.	Rainfall in inches.	Heaviest daily fall.	No. of days rain fell.	No. of days snow fell.
January	9.68	9th day	21	5
February	1.39	19th „	18	4
March	1.03	31st „	8	—
April	2.16	2nd „	14	
May	1.79	22nd „	13	
June	4.17	2nd „	21	
July	1.16	16th „	13	
August	4.86	12th „	21	
September	2.44	2nd „	16	
October	1.60	28th „	15	
November	1.33	11th & 17th	17	
December	2.24	11th day.	18	
Totals	33.85		195	9

The rainfall recorded for 1948, including snowfalls, was a little above the average for the British Isles and above that taken in 1947 when 32.51 inches were measured.

The five wettest days of 1948 were June 2nd (1.52 inches), August 12th (1.44 inches), August 11th (1.43 inches), January 9th (1.43 inches), and January 6th (1.27 inches).

Snow fell on 9 days which is very light for the Consett District.

Thunder was heard on 6 days, peals in all cases being light but with heavy rain on one occasion.

Fog and mist were observed and noted on 93 occasions.

The driest periods without rain were as follows :—

February 25th to March 14th—19 days.

May 13th to May 21st—9 days.

April 8th to April 16th—9 days.

The Council do not as yet possess a sunshine recording instrument but records taken at the Forestry Commission, Chopwell Wood, Rowlands Gill, are given hereunder :—

Total sunshine for year—1276.4 hours as against 1348.3 hours in 1947. May, 1948, had the most sunshine with 187.5 hours ; June coming next with 162.8 hours.

